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U.S. Ambassador Launches New \$45 Million Youth Initiative: **Yes Youth Can!**



On December 16, the Ambassador announced a new \$45 million initiative for youth in Kenya. Speaking at the Kenya Children's Parliament Foundation, the Ambassador launched the **Yes Youth Can!** Program. Implemented by USAID **Yes Youth Can!** is being designed to empower Kenyan youth to achieve a greater voice in national reform and create new livelihood opportunities.

Yes Youth Can! will support the creation of effective national and local networks of youth leaders to advocate peacefully for meaningful reforms of the government and economy.

A key component of the initiative will be a youth-managed fund (**Youth Innovate for Change Fund**) to support grass-roots community development and empowerment projects implemented by youth and youth-serving organizations. By incorporating youth into the management of the fund, **Yes Youth Can!** will promote transparency and accountability, and further youth's leadership skills.

For more information contact yesyouthcan@usaid.gov



Yes Youth Can! Fact Sheet

Purpose: To empower youth for greater voice in national and local reforms and to create new opportunities for livelihoods

Key Components of Yes Youth Can!

- Support quick-impact projects to promote youth voices on national issues, particularly the reform process, through independent grassroots organizations and activities
- Build new skills in youth leadership and entrepreneurship
- Establish a youth-led and managed Innovate for Change Fund that promotes economic opportunities in their own communities
- Support and expand youth networks to encourage collaboration and leverage resources
- Improve the enabling environment for youth enterprises and organizations

Guiding Principles of Yes Youth Can!

- Youth are in the driver's seat
- Transparency through agreed upon rules of engagement
- Active youth engagement in program decisions
- Learning by doing
- Leverage knowledge and resources through partnership

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